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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/805,320	03/22/2004	Koji Kanazawa	04329.3282	9086

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EXAMINER

ZEWDU, MELESS NMN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2683

DATE MAILED: 01/04/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/805,320	Applicant(s) KANAZAWA ET AL.	
	Examiner Meless N. Zewdu	Art Unit 2683	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,5,8 and 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3,6,7,9,10,12 and 13 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 June 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: <u>22 June 2004</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is the first on the merit of the instant application.
2. Claims 1-13 are pending in this action.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 6-8, 12 and 13 are objected to because of the following informalities: the claims recite "device wirelessly connectable". See for instance, claim 1, in line 4 and claim 8, in line 5. This is not a positive recitation and examiner suggests applicant to replace the phrase with 'device wirelessly coupled/connected". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 4 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meade, II (US 2003/0073412 A1) in view of Tanaka et al. (Tanaka) (JP 2003036492 A).

As per claim 1: an electronic apparatus (see fig. 2, element 50), comprising:

a communication device which communicates with a mobile device and a plurality of devices via a network, the mobile device being wirelessly connectable to the network (see fig. 2, elements 12, 13, 26 and 50. But, Meade does not explicitly teach about a control unit configured to determine whether the mobile device is disconnected from the network (going out of range) and a message sending unit configured to send an alarm message to one of the devices by communication between the one of the devices and the communication device when the mobile device is disconnected from the network, as claimed by applicant. However, in a related field of endeavor, Tanaka teaches about a technique wherein a person carrying a mobile device goes out of a house/facility, a monitoring device (in house/facility), based on RF distance/proximity detection, sends an alarm so as to inform a family or helper (see abstract and solution). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add Tanaka's proximity monitoring device (home appliance) to the teaching of Meade for the advantage of preventing a person having a wandering habit from starting wandering and preventing a child or pet from being lost (see problem to be solved). But, Meade in view of Tanaka does not explicitly teach whether or not the device that receives the message is currently powered on, as claimed by applicant. However, in a related field of endeavor, Dresti teaches about a remote control device with appliance awareness capability wherein the remote unit bi-directionally communicates, via IR or RF, with a home appliance having a power monitor associated with (see abstract; col. 3, lines 51-67) and thereby determine the current power state of the appliance (see col. 2, lines 30-46). Therefore, it would have

Art Unit: 2683

been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the above references with the teaching of Dresti for the advantage of providing the above modified system a power awareness feature (see col. 1, lines 6-8).

As per claim 8: the features of claim 8 are similar to the features of claim 1. Hence, claim 8 is rejected on the same ground and motivation as claim 1.

As per claim 4: Tanaka teaches an electronic apparatus, wherein the alarm message includes a message to make a notification that the mobile device moves outside a communication area capable of wireless communication with the network (see abstract).

Claims 5 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over references applied to claims 1 and 8 above, and further in view of Gutta et al. (Gutta) (US 2002/0169583 A1).

As per claim 5: the above references teach (for example Tanaka) sending an alarm message to a pre-designated mobile phone (helper 9) when the mobile phone is disconnected from the network. But, the references (applied to claim 1) do not explicitly teach about a means for sending electronic mail including the alarm message, as claimed by applicant. However, in a related field of endeavor, Gutta, in an automatic system for monitoring person requiring care and his/her caretaker, teaches about sending alarm signal by several sending means, including an e-mail (see page 6, paragraph 100; page 7, paragraphs 0103-0107). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the above references with the teaching of Gupta for the advantage of providing a supervisors more informative information (see page 1, paragraph 0015).

As per claim 11: the feature of claim 11 is similar to the feature of claim 5. Hence, claim 11 is rejected on the same ground and motivation as claim 5.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-3, 6-7, 9-10 and 12-13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Meless N. Zewdu whose telephone number is (571) 272-7873. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am to 5:00 pm..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Trost can be reached on (571) 272-7872. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any inquiry of a general nature relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

Meless Zewdu 
Examiner

12 December 2005.